



PARKS, RECREATION & FACILITIES MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

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Memorandum

To: Parks and Recreation Committee
From: Dean Gazza, Director of Parks, Recreation and Facilities Management
Date: January 21, 2015
Re: Action: Name Pierce Park Pavilion Outside Stage Area in Honor of Ivan "Ike"
Spangenberg

The 2014 Parks, Recreation and Facilities Management Department Capital Projects Fund included money to renovate the stage and/or performance area at the Pierce Park pavilion. The renovations started in early September 2014 and will be completed by mid-May 2015. The renovations will increase the size of the stage area and provide improved acoustics, lighting, access and storage.

The stage area is used by a variety of groups and organizations that reserve the Pierce Park pavilion for activities and events. The City Band has been using this stage area for over 40 years as the site of their summer concerts. Currently held on Tuesday evenings, the City Band offers an outstanding "concert in the park" event that draws hundreds of people to the park every week in the summer. The City Band has also been a regular participant in the Memorial Day, Flag Day and Christmas parades.

Mr. Ivan "Ike" Spangenberg became a member of the City Band in 1960 as a French horn player. He became the director of the City Band in 1967 and served as director through the 2011 concert season. In addition to serving as the City Band Director for 45 years, Mr. Spangenberg served the Appleton Area School District as a music teacher for 36 years from 1959 to 1995. A brief biography of Mr. Spangenberg is listed below:

- Graduated from Appleton High School in 1950.
- Graduated from Lawrence University in 1954 with a music education degree.

- Met his wife, Carol, at Lawrence University. They were married his senior year.
- Accepted his first teaching job in Hilbert where he served as the entire music department. Taught in the Hilbert School District for 2 years.
- Called up through the US Army Reserves to serve in the US Army for two years.
- Served as a French horn player in the Army Band in Fort Bliss, Texas.
- Accepted a job in Elmwood Park, Illinois, for one year after leaving the Army.
- Accepted an offer in 1959 to teach music in the Appleton Area School District. Taught 5 years at Roosevelt Junior High School and then moved to Appleton High School, now Appleton West. Spent the last 3 years teaching elementary school band.

Mr. Spangenberg has dedicated his life to providing music to the City of Appleton and the entire Fox Cities. He faithfully served the Appleton Area School District for 36 years as a music teacher and the City of Appleton for 45 years as director of the City Band. Mr. Spangenberg has touched the lives of thousands of students and residents through his commitment and dedication to our community and the generous sharing of his musical talents.

In recognition his “lifetime of service”, it is the recommendation of the members of the City Band and the Parks, Recreation and Facilities Management Department to name the renovated stage area of the Pierce Park pavilion in honor of Ivan “Ike” Spangenberg.

This recommendation will appear on the Parks and Recreation Committee agenda as an action item on January 28, 2015. Representatives from the City Band will be available in support of Mr. Spangenberg’s service to our community.

Please contact me at 832-5572 or dean.gazza@appleton.org with any questions.

Your consideration of this matter is greatly appreciated.